Forestry Program for Early Rehabilitation of Tsunami Affected Areas in Sri Lanka

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Background
- Natural resources in Tsunami affected coastal areas were severely damaged.
- The donations were designed to address emergency needs.
- Incorporated projects in the forestry sector came only at the last stages (i.e. end 2005)
- Forestry program for Early rehabilitation in Asian Tsunami Affected Countries is in operation since early 2006 with funding from Finland.
- This project based on the recommendations of post tsunami rapid assessments conducted on the direction of Ministry of Environment.

Project Areas
- Two Provinces and six districts
  (i) Southern Province
     - Kalutara
     - Galle
     - Matara
     - Hambantota
  (ii) Eastern Province
     - Batticaloa
     - Ampara
Many agencies / organizations were interested in the rehabilitation of tsunami-damaged vegetation.

- No tangible contribution so far except by the government. (i.e. Rs. 6.0 million to Forest Department in 2005)
- Only one NGO (Mandru) in the east has raised about 6.0 million Casuarina seedlings to establish 250 ha of shelterbelts in 2006 / 07.

**Project Objectives**

The principal objective of the project is to help restore the livelihoods of the people in the tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka and to contribute to their improved and more secure futures.

**Specification objectives**

- To address immediate needs of the affected populations by providing forest-related employment and forest and tree-derived benefits.
- To contribute to an improved and safer future for the populations in the tsunami-affected areas through increased coastal protection and erosion control, improved household income; the supply of wood, non-wood forest products; and enhanced environmental services from forests and trees through forest rehabilitation, reforestation and home garden rehabilitation.

**Project activities**

- Offering advice to those interested in;
  - coastal forest rehabilitation.
  - Shelter belt establishment
- Co-ordinating the rehabilitation activities at the district level.
- Mobilize support for its activities at the National level.
Main Field Activities

- Coastal afforestation
- Rehabilitation of mangroves
- Promoting trees in home gardens development (Old and New settlements)
- Avenue planting
- Urban planting
Main Field Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Afforestation (ha)</th>
<th>Mangroves (ha)</th>
<th>Home Gardens (Old)</th>
<th>Home Gardens (New)</th>
<th>Avenue Planting km</th>
<th>Urban planting ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amapara</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batticaloa</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalutara</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matara</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hambantota</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>121.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>7964</strong></td>
<td><strong>6466</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HH – Households

Project beneficiaries

Direct project beneficiaries
- Vulnerable people
- Affected communities in the six districts

SUMMARY OF EXTENTS FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT
**Project beneficiaries**

- 14,400 families – benefit from home garden development
- 200 families – benefit through wages earned by Nursery work
- > 300 facilities – benefit from seasonal employment in establishing shelterbelts
- 70 communities – indirectly benefit from control of coastal erosion
  - increased protection from storms through shelterbelts / other vegetation
  - other ecological benefits of Forest / mangroves rehabilitation

**Project Implementation**

- Forest Department as a Counterpart agency under Ministry of Environment.
- Letter of Agreements (LOA) signed with each District Forest Officers (DFO) in six districts.
- Range Forest Officers of the locality as focal Officers assisted by:
  - the Development Assistants
  - Forestry Extension Officers
  - Beat Forest Officers and
  - Forest Field Assistants

**Project Operational Plans**

- District level action / work plans were developed in consultation with local communities.
- Funds through the LOA is provided directly to the District Forest Officer for filed operations.
- FAO also provide materials required for the nurseries & funds for purchase of other seedling (i.e. fruit trees etc)
### Financial Programme of the Forestry Programme of OSRO/GE-05/02/Fin for 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>LOA</th>
<th>Nursery Materials</th>
<th>Purchase of seedlings</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalutara</td>
<td>2,668,830</td>
<td>190,520</td>
<td>12,077,000</td>
<td>15,847,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>1,742,830</td>
<td>349,220</td>
<td>537,950</td>
<td>5,129,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matara</td>
<td>1,391,200</td>
<td>596,000</td>
<td>262,000</td>
<td>2,201,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hambantota</td>
<td>3,950,932</td>
<td>1,338,438</td>
<td>648,820</td>
<td>5,934,220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arugam Bay</td>
<td>4,076,780</td>
<td>9,615,000</td>
<td>2,615,000</td>
<td>12,714,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batticaloa</td>
<td>3,938,860</td>
<td>4,302,170</td>
<td>540,800</td>
<td>9,184,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15,568,982</td>
<td>14,245,748</td>
<td>5,206,470</td>
<td>35,010,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Progress... so far

- Letters of agreement in all six districts were signed.
- Nursery program to raise required seedling commenced
  - in Forest Department Nurseries
  - in nurseries managed by CBO’s
  - in nurseries managed by house holds
- Distribution of Fruit seedlings procured for private suppliers commenced.
- Distribution of coconut seedlings (poly bag potted) procured from Coconut Cultivate-Board commenced in southern districts.
- Most of the coastal afforestation work will be done during the North-East Monson (Oct – Dec)

### Capability building

- > 25 officers were trained in PRA and preparation of action plan.
- They are in a position to assist villagers in preparing village action plans.